

Health Advisory:

Recalled Drugs from Able Laboratories

June 21, 2005

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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FROM: JULIA M. ECKSTEIN
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SUBJECT: FDA Advises Consumers about Recalled Drugs from Able Laboratories

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is taking action to ensure the public is fully aware that Able Laboratories of Cranbury, NJ, is conducting a nationwide recall of all of its manufactured drugs (mostly generic prescription drugs, including drugs containing acetaminophen) because of serious concerns that they were not produced according to quality assurance standards. Able Laboratories has ceased all current production.

The names of the recalled drugs and their imprint codes can be found at the FDA website <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01182.html>. Imprints are marks (usually letters and numbers) found on the surfaces of drugs. If you have one of the drugs with one of the corresponding imprint codes, your drug is covered by the Able Laboratories recall. Liquid products that are being recalled can be identified by the lot numbers printed on their packaging.

It is important to note that this recall only applies to the drugs produced by Able Laboratories – and not to the same drugs produced by other manufacturers. An investigation is underway to identify all the repackers and wholesalers who distribute these drugs from Able Laboratories. In the meantime, the best way for consumers to know whether they have a product produced by Able Laboratories is to check the list provided at the FDA website and either contact their pharmacist or compare the imprint numbers on their individual tablets with the imprint numbers.

Consumers with questions may contact Able Laboratories at 1-800-982-2253. Persons wanting to report any adverse events to the FDA may contact FDA's MedWatch office at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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